



High Temperature Energy Storage Concepts

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CSP Research at Uni. Evora



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Science Management



R&D Units

**Solar thermal energy storage
and new materials**

Director: L. Guerreiro
Members: F.Felizardo, T. Fasquelle

New storage concepts

STE system integration

New fluids and materials

Demonstration

Advanced optics

Director: D. Canavarro

Point focus concentrators

Linear concentrators

Secondary optics

Design methods and tools

Solar radiation

Director: H. Silva
Members: A. Cavaco, F. Lopes

Resource evaluation

Long term statistics

Now-casting

Design methods and tools

**Testing and certification of
solar thermal systems and
components**

Coordinator: M. Collares Pereira
Members: T. Osório, J. Marchã

Tests and standards

Product development

Systems and applications

Systems engineering ,PV systems

Coordinator: H. Silva
Members: L. Fialho, R. Conceição

Water and agriculture interfaces

Electrical energy storage

Other systems and applications

Long term behavior of special
components (glass/mirror soiling, ...)



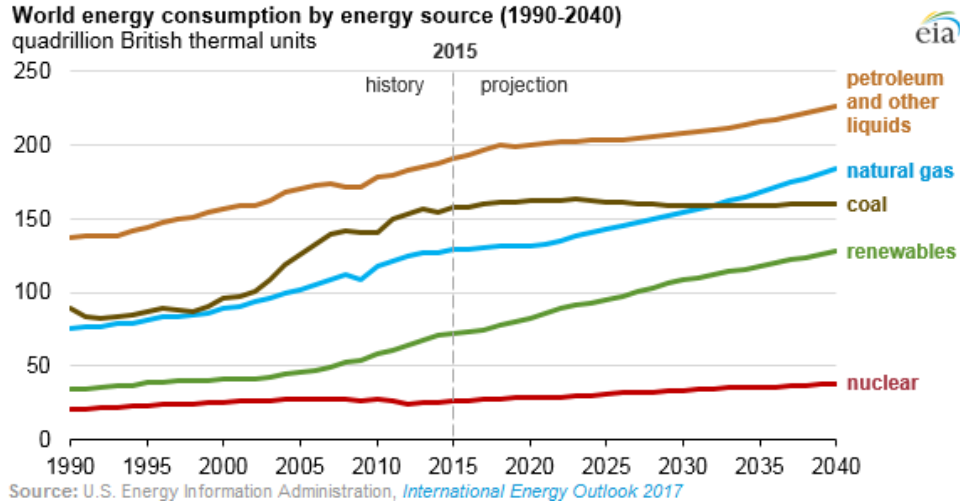
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- Energy in the World
- Challenges on the Energy Path
- CSP Plants & Energy Storage
- Design concepts
- R&D Storage Materials
- Future Perspectives

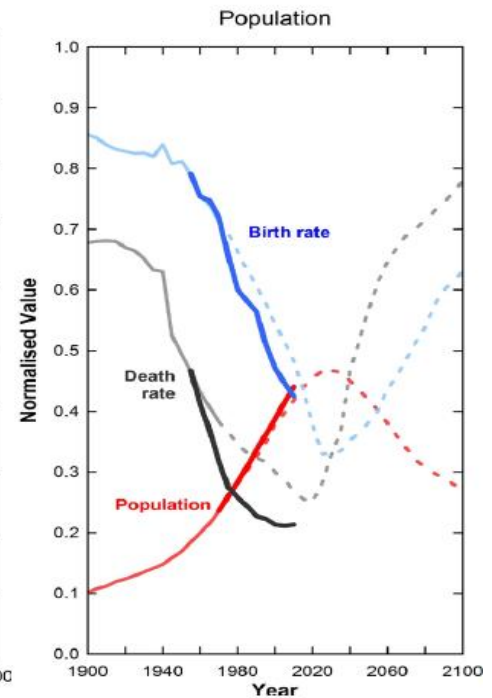
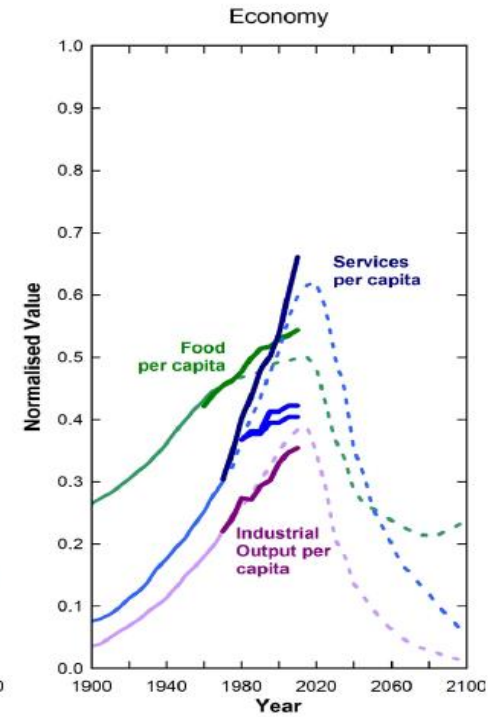
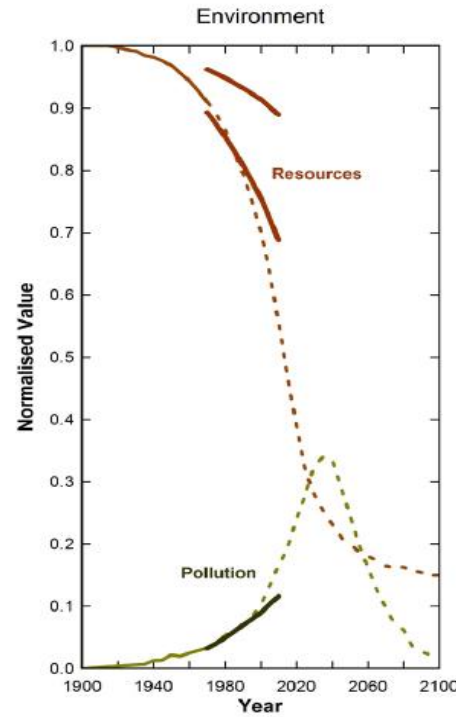
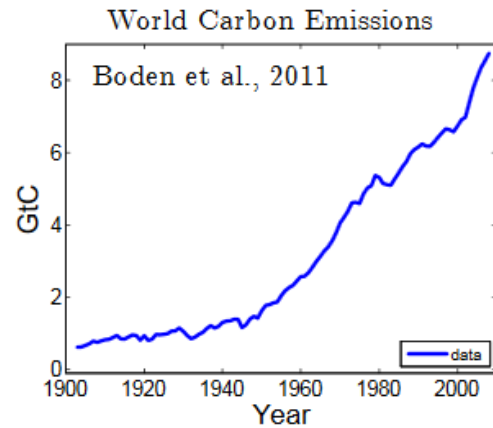




World Energy Consumption expected to increase 30% until 2040.
Except for coal, all other energy sources are expected to continue a growing trend.

World Model – LTG: Energy Transition

“Energie Wende” is a must



Source: LTG, Meadows



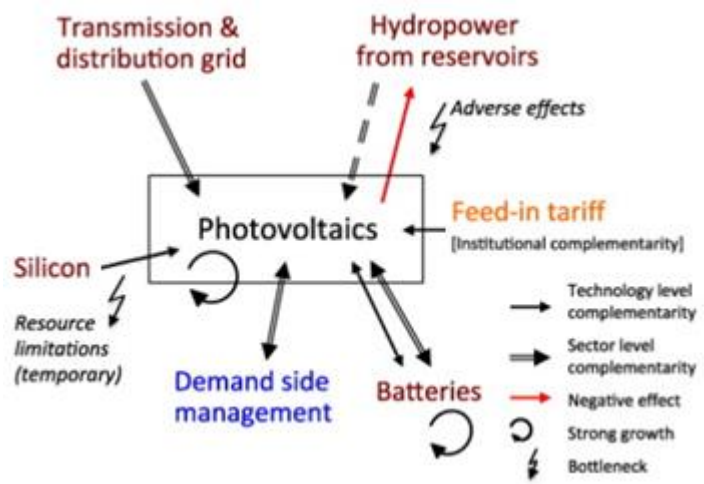
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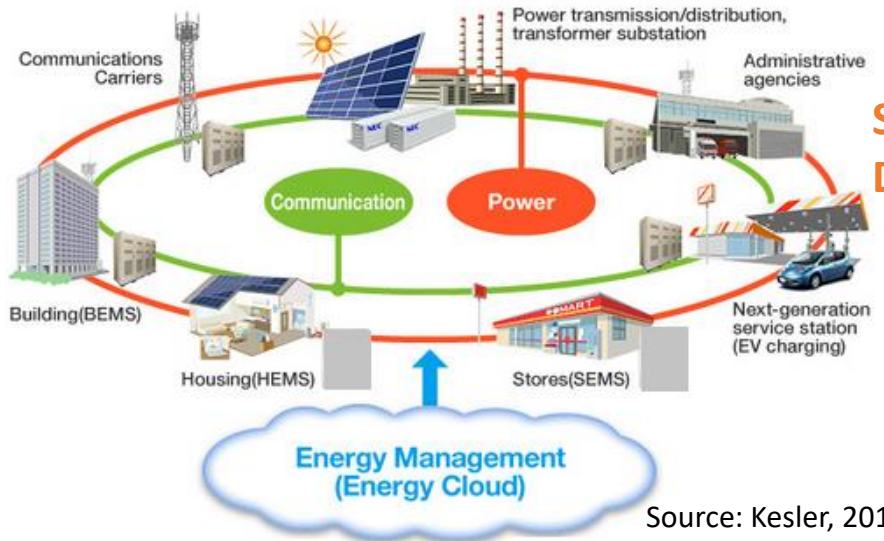
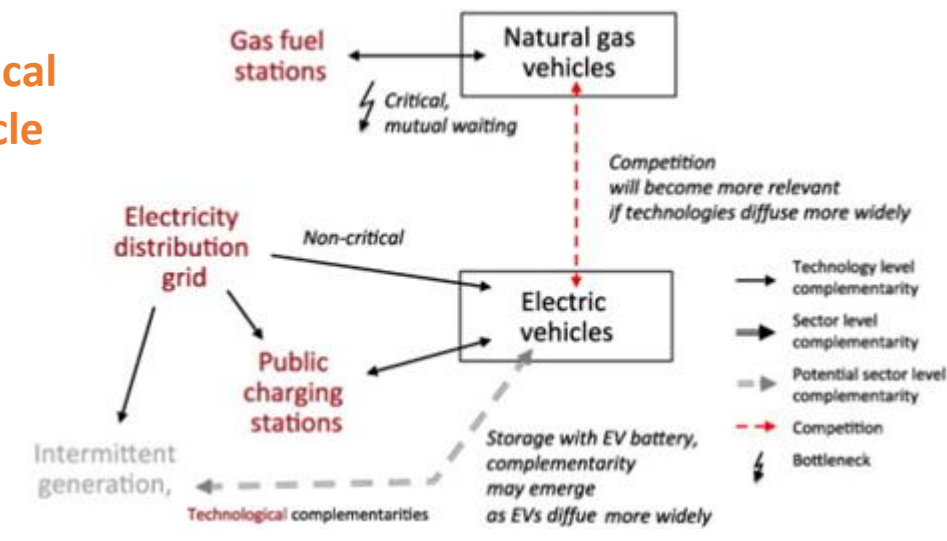
Clean Tech Path



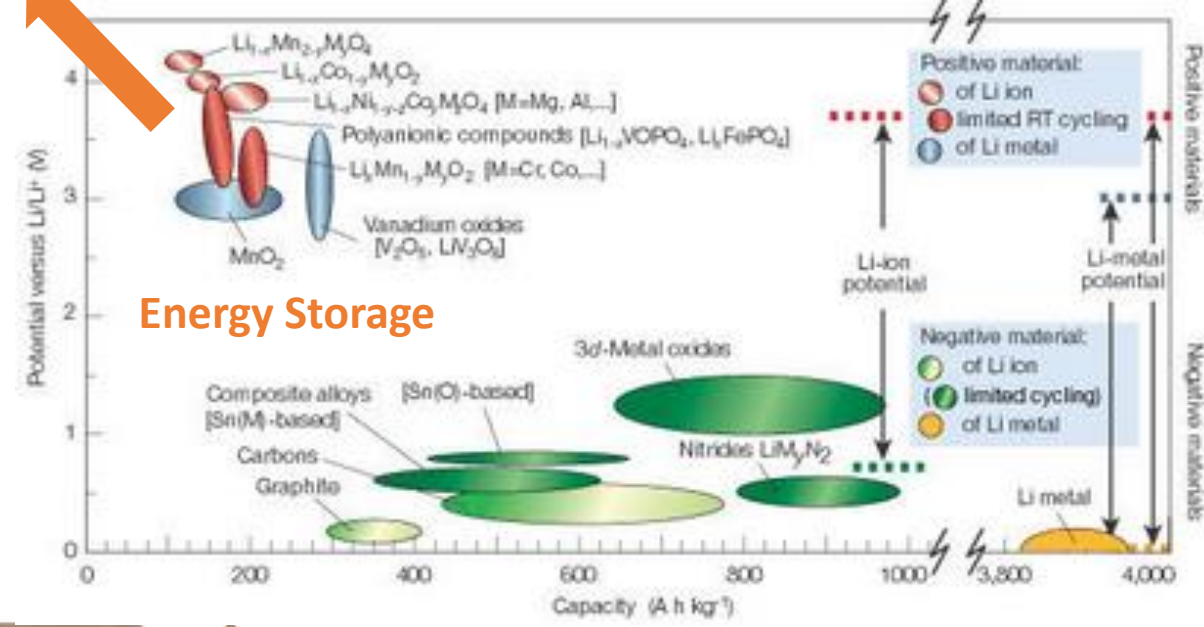
PV

Electrical Vehicle

Societal changes



Smart Grid / Decentralization



Source: Kesler, 2016



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Clean Tech Path

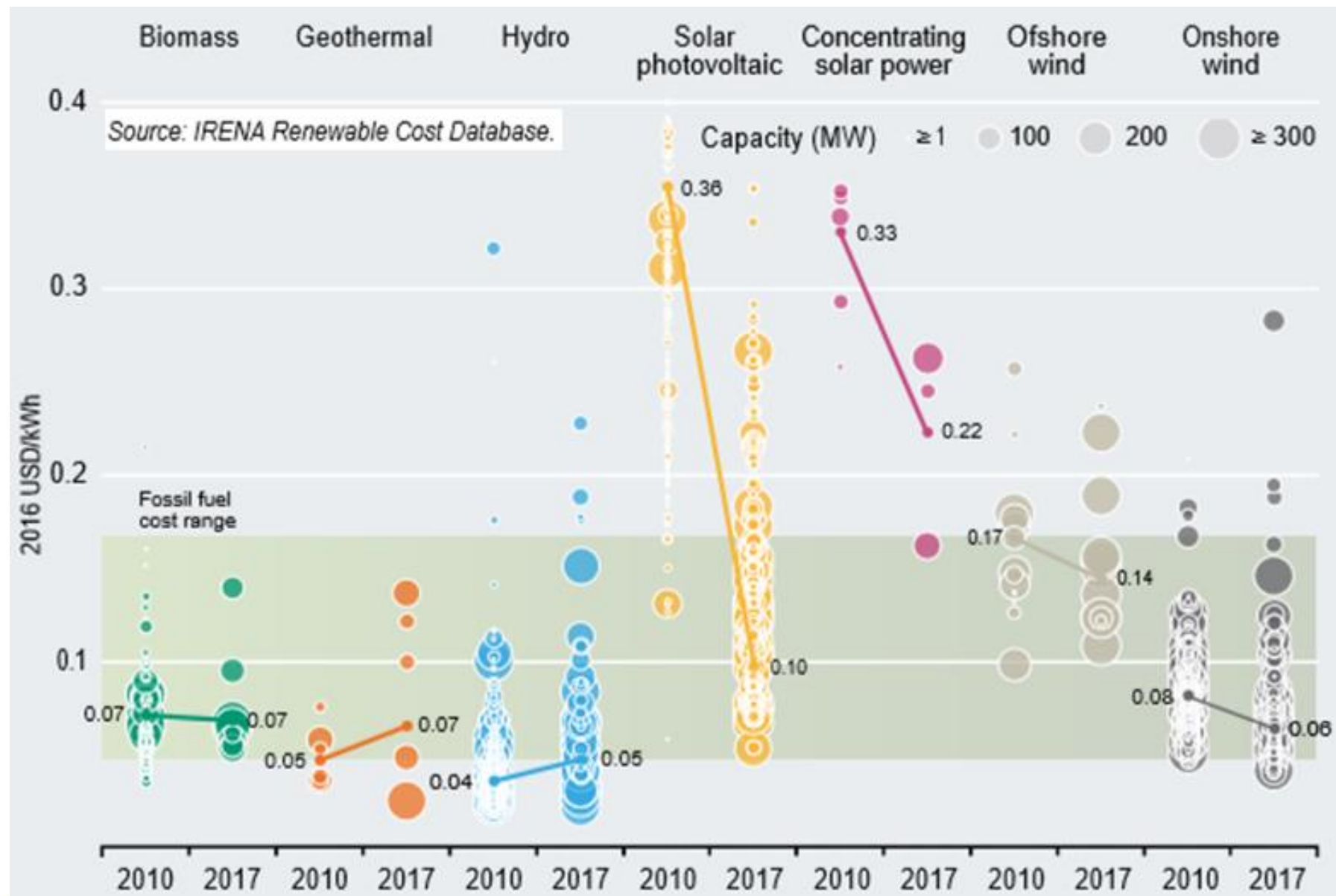
- Energy savings provides a competitive advantage
- New markets, new companies can rise
- Urban planning in a new way
- The sense of ownership versus fulfillment of a need
- Societal changes are needed
- Knowledge easily transferable and globalised
- Local production of goods is fostered with energy costs on the rise



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Renewable Energy became competitive with fossil fuel



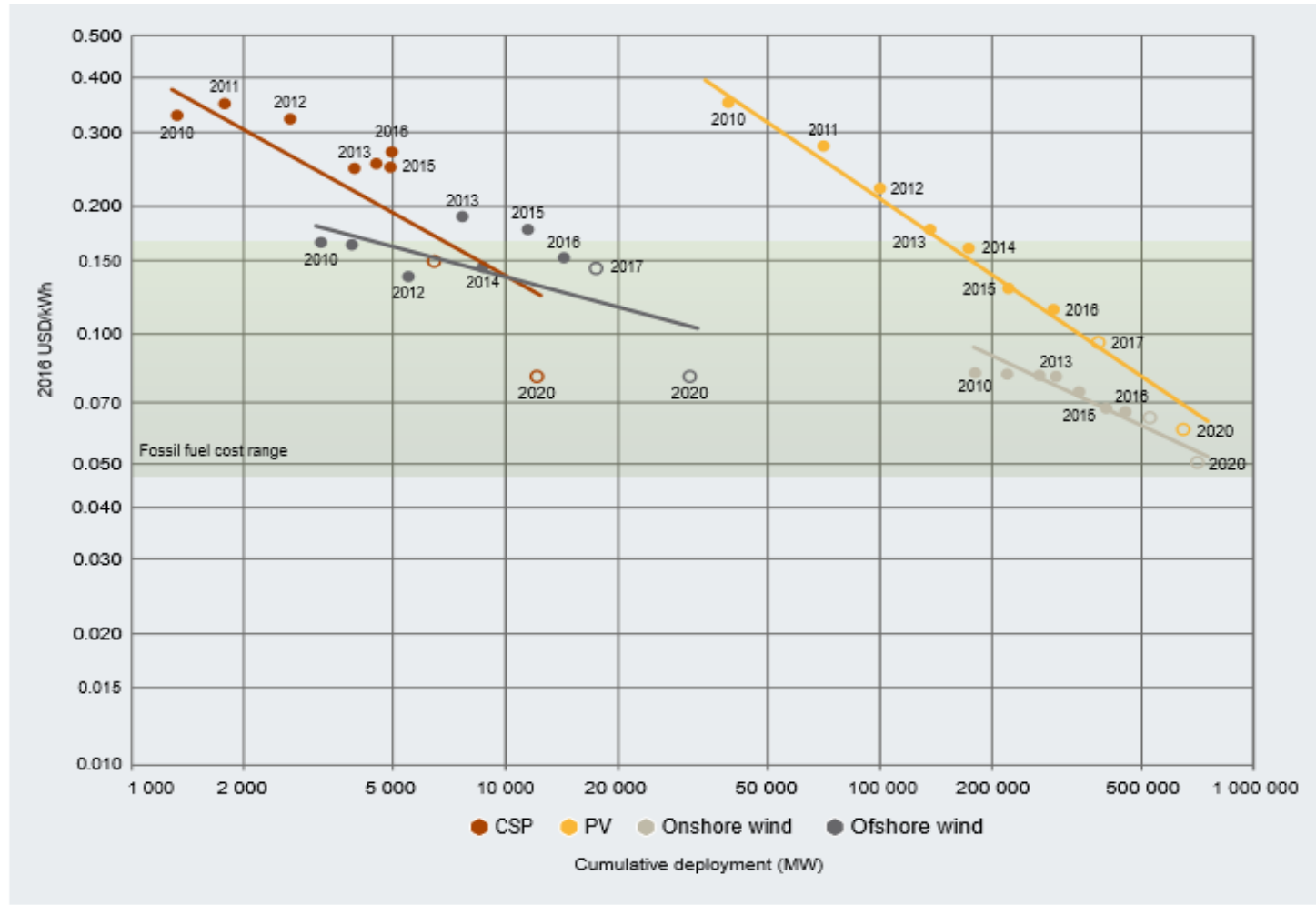
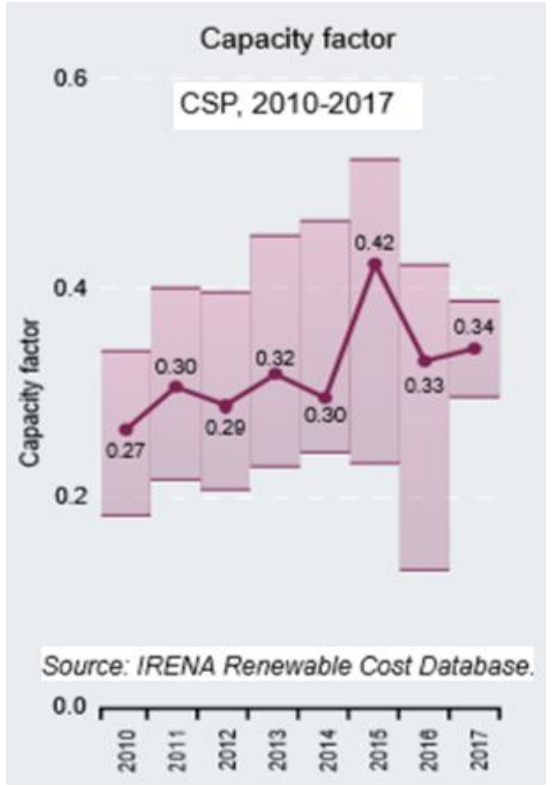
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Based on IRENA Renewable Cost Database and Auctions Database; GWEC, 2017; WindEurope, 2017; MAKE Consulting, 2017a; and SolarPower Europe, 2017a.

Storage increases capacity factor

CSP has a high efficiency storage (96%) which allows dispatchability and increase system value



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Storage Technology	CAPEX / kWh of capacity
Rock Bed concepts	15 to 25 Eur / kWh _{th}
Molten Salt	25 to 70 Eur / kWh _{th}
Lithium-Ion battery	1400 Eur / kWh _{el} [0,39MEur for 0,28MWh]
Lithium-Ion battery (Demo project)	833 Eur / kWh _{el} [100MEur for 120MWh]

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The cost in Euro/kWh also depends on the storage temperature, for the same initial capital expenditures. Using molten salts, storing heat at 565 °C doubles the storage capacity compared to heat at 400 °C, which means that the costs Euro/kWh will be cut in half



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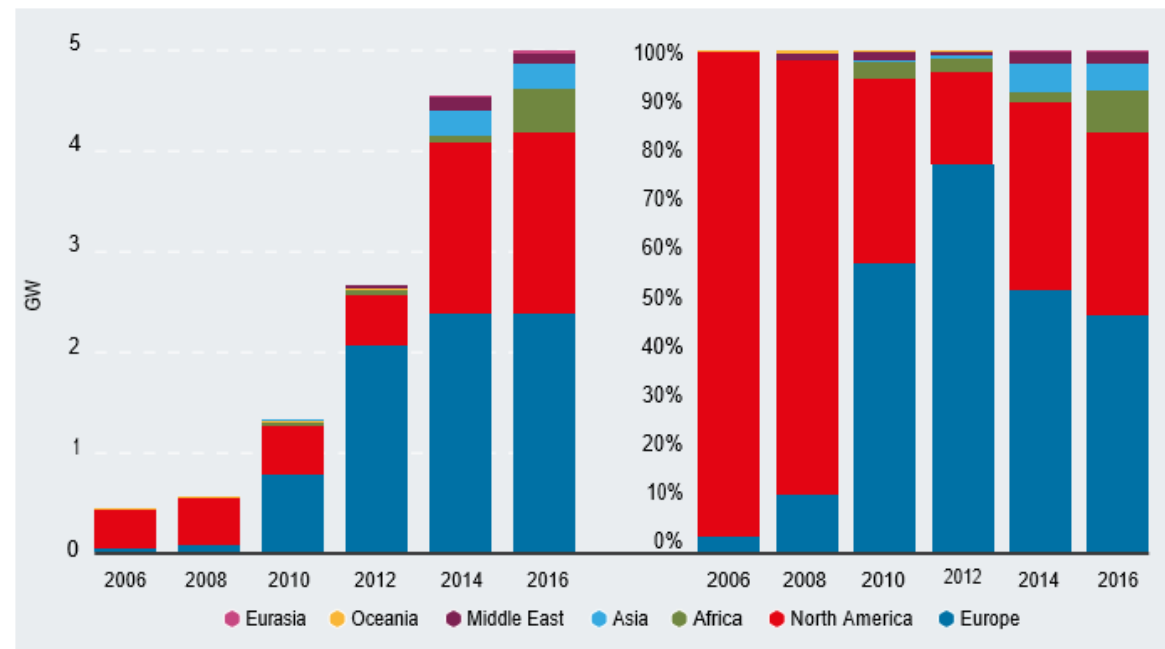


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CSP Plants

- Tower Type
- Parabolic Through
- Fresnel
- Dish



Source: IRENA, 2017a.



	Parabolic Trough	Solar Tower	Linear Fresnel	Dish-Stirling
Typical capacity (MW)	10-300	10-200	10-200	0.01-0.025
Maturity technology	Commercially proven	Commercially proven	Pilot projects	Demonstration projects



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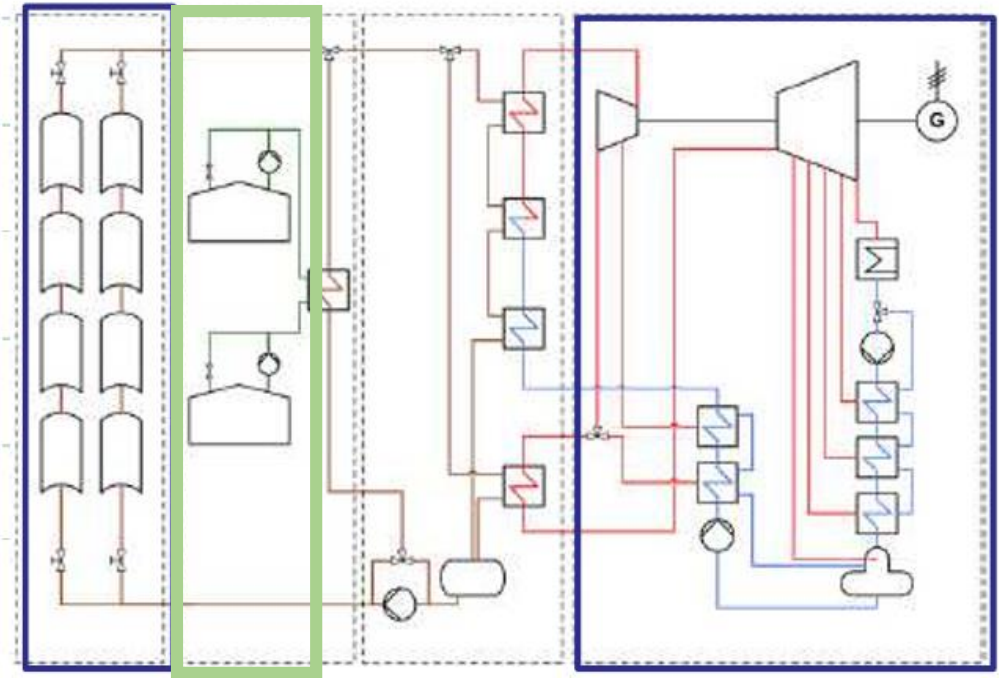


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Overall Plant Efficiency

$$\eta_{overall} = \eta_{optical} \cdot \eta_{thermal} \cdot \eta_{piping} \cdot \eta_{net_PB} \cdot \eta_{aux_SF}$$

$$= \rho_{clean} \cdot \gamma \cdot \tau_{glass} \cdot \alpha \cdot K(\theta) \cdot \eta_{shadowing} \cdot F_{fou,mirror} \cdot F_{fou,glass} \cdot F_{tracking}$$

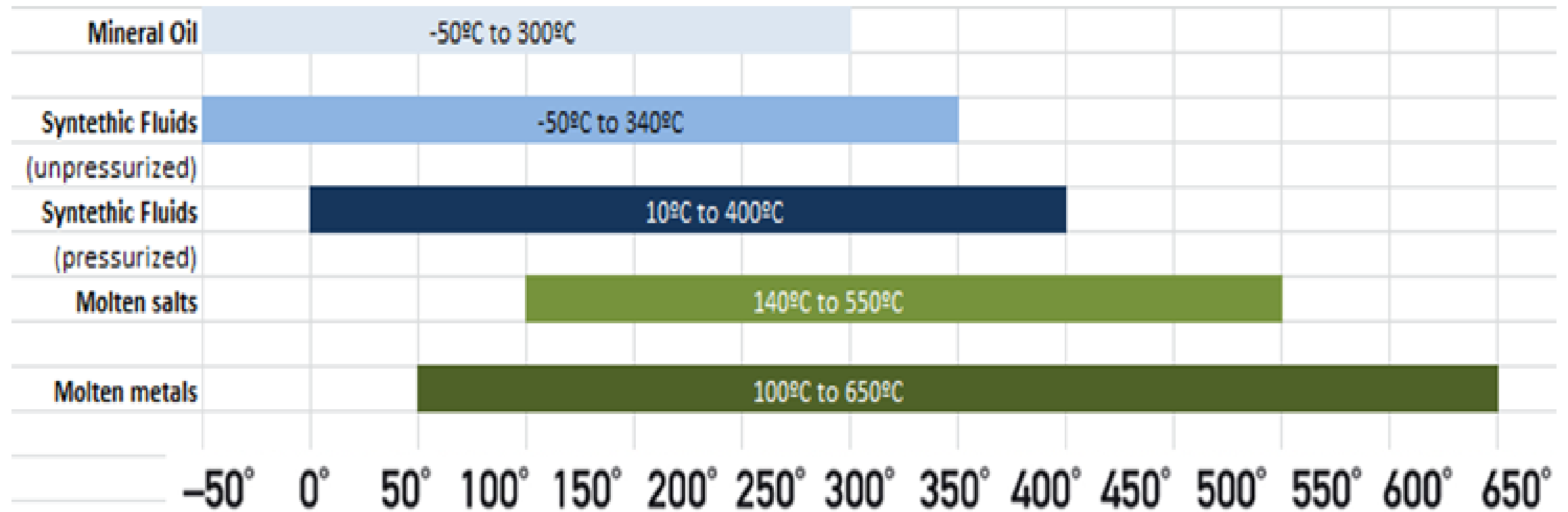


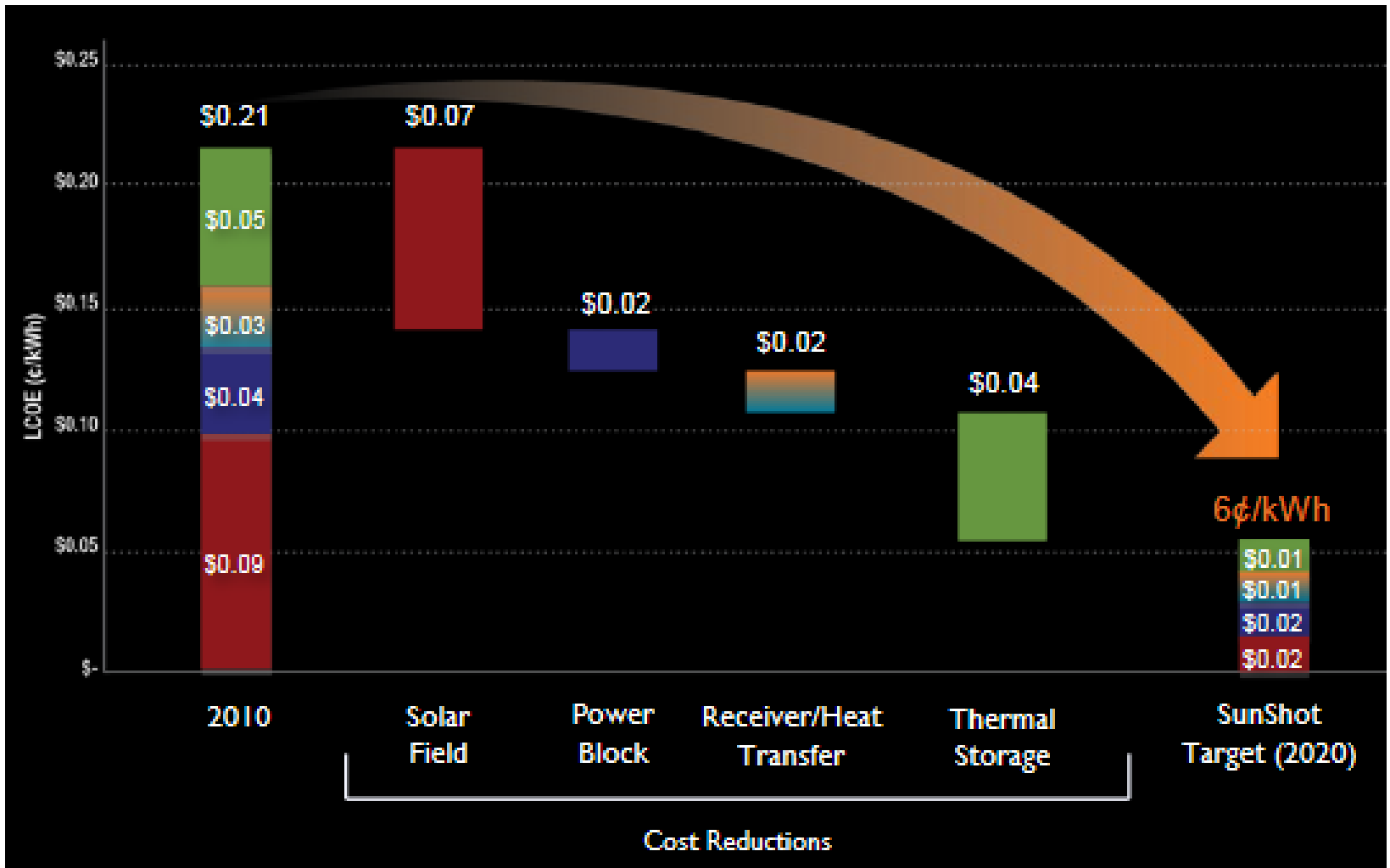
- Direct Systems
Circulating Fluid (HTF) is the Storage Fluid (HSM)
- Indirect Systems
Circulating Fluid is not the Storage Fluid



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HTF (heat transfer fluid)





R&D driver: cost reduction

Source: SunShot (2012)



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Thermal Energy Storage, State of the Art (SoA)

SoA
TES plants

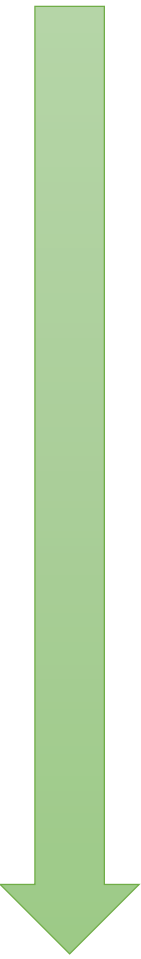
HTF- Heat Transfer Fluid	HSM- Heat Storage Medium	T (°C)
Oil	Molten salts / Ruths steam / concrete	<400°C



Source: Wikipedia

HTF- Heat Transfer Fluid	HSM- Heat Storage Medium	T (°C)
Molten salts / Steam	Molten salts / solids / PCM	565°C

- ✓ New Design: reduce 2 tanks to 1 Thermocline Tank (w/ filler)
- ✓ New lower cost materials need to be validated up to 565°C



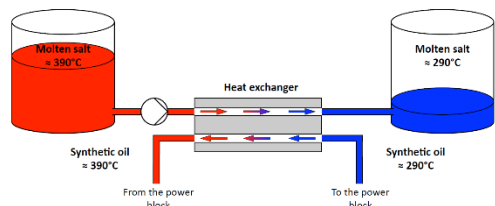
R&D



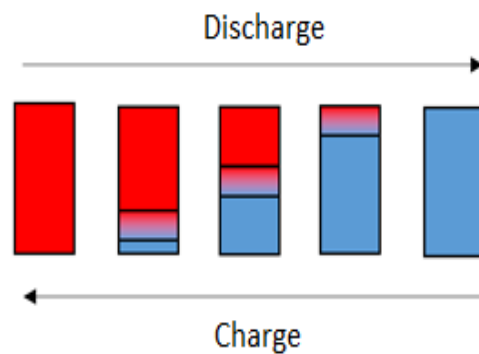
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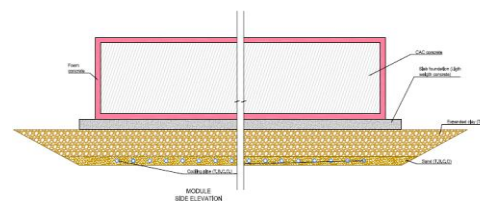
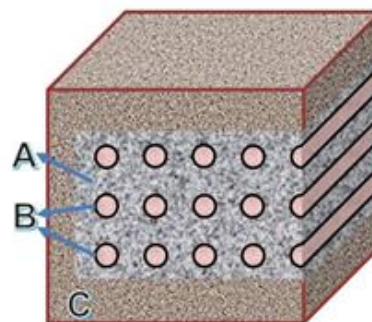
Molten Salt 2 - Tank



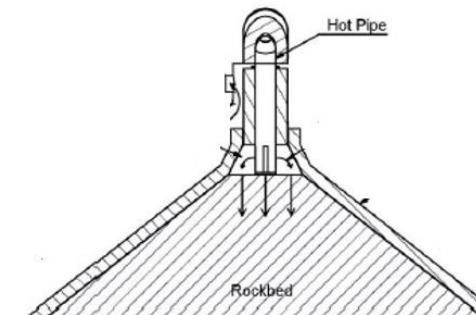
Molten Salt + Solid 1 – Thermocline tank



Concrete Module



Solid rocks / slag Bed Rock unit



Source:



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Materials considered for CSP storage media

Storage Medium	Sand-rock Mineral Oil	Reinforced Concrete	Nitrate salts	Carbonate salts	Liquid sodium
Temp. (cold) (°C)	200	200	265	450	270
Temp. (hot) (°C)	300	400	565	850	530
Avg. density (kg/m ³)	1700	2200	1870	2100	850
Avg. thermal conductivity (W/m K)	1.0	1.5	0.52	2.0	71.0
Avg. heat capacity (kJ/kg K)	1.30	0.85	1.6	1.8	1.3
Volume specific heat capacity (kWh/m ³)	60	100	250	430	80
Cost per kWh (US\$/kWh)	4.2	1.0	3.7	11.0	21.0



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Storage Materials



Heat Transfer Fluid = Heat Storage Media?

Name	Type	Min HTF Temp °C	Max Operating Temp °C	Freeze Point °C
Chloride Salts (50% NaCl 50% KCl)	Chloride salts	680	950	658
Solar Salts	Nitrate salts	260	600	220
Caloria	Mineral hydrocarbon oil	-20	300	-40
Hitec XL	Nitrate salts	150	500	120
Therminol VP-1	Mixture of biphenyl and diphenyl oxide	50	400	12
Hitec (60% NaNO ₃ 40% KNO ₃)	Nitrate salts	175	500	140
Dowtherm Q	Synthetic oil	-30	330	-50
Dowtherm RP	Synthetic oil	-20	350	-40

Component	Cost (\$ kg ⁻¹)
Therminol VP-1	7.6
Hitec	1.7
LiNO ₃	6.4
CsNO ₃	48.0
NaNO ₃	0.5
KNO ₃	0.8
NaNO ₂	0.45
NaCl	0.1
KCl	0.4



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Molten Salts

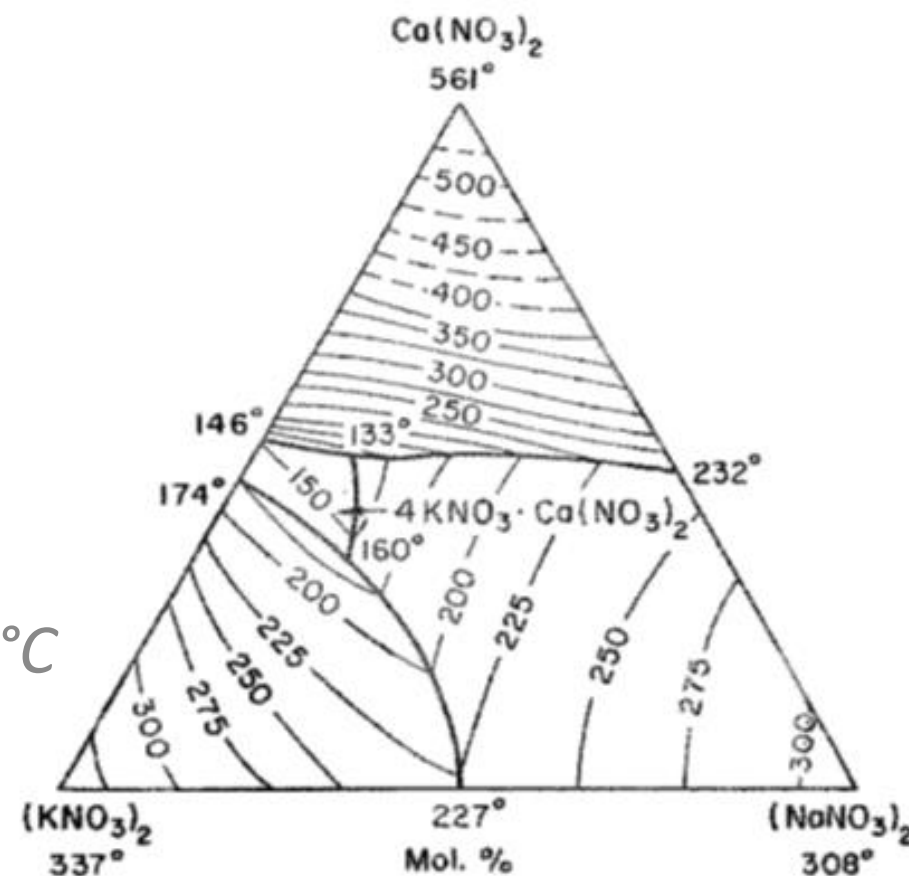
- Binary Mixtures



- Ternary Mixtures (Ca up to 40 wt%) $T_m \sim 140^\circ\text{C}$



- Quaternary Mixtures (Li up to 30 wt%) $T_m \sim 100^\circ\text{C}$



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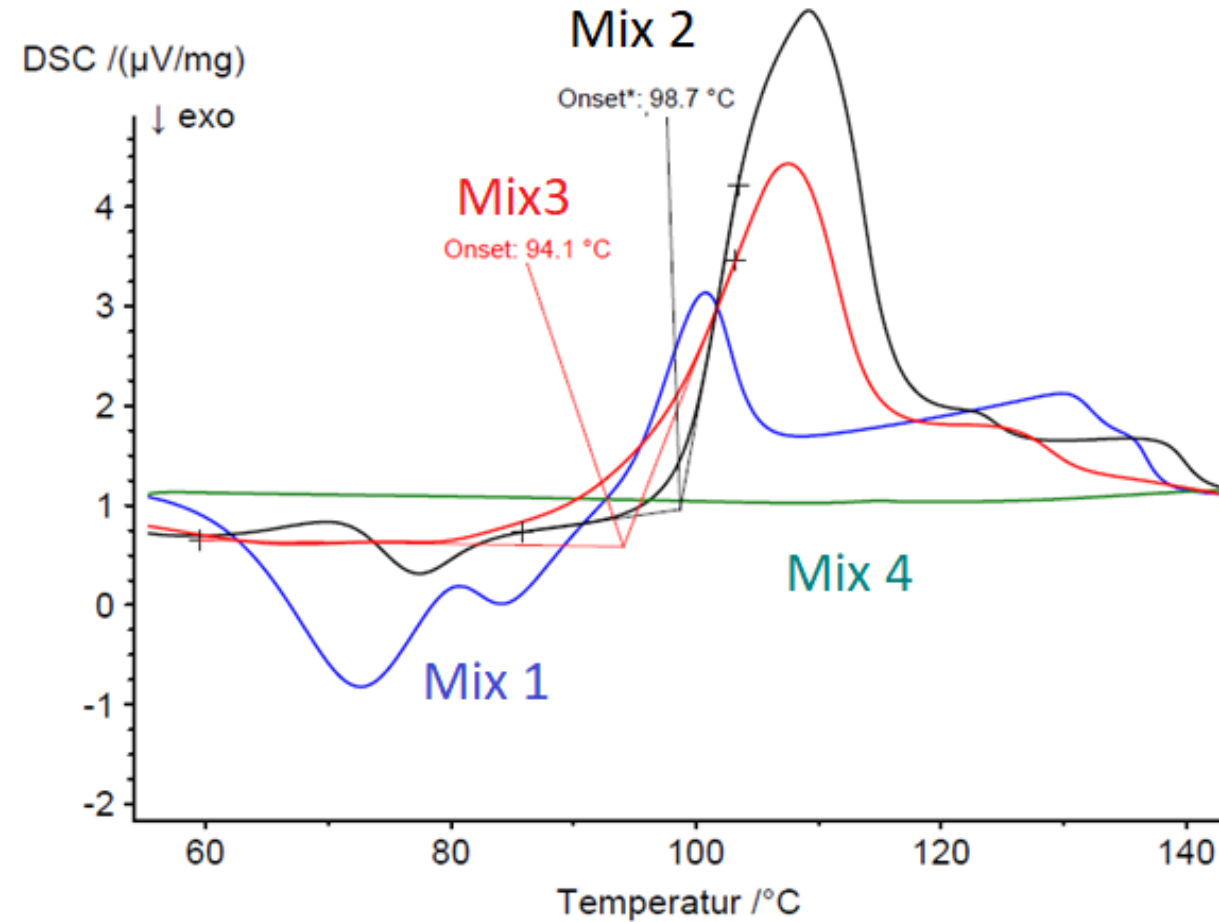
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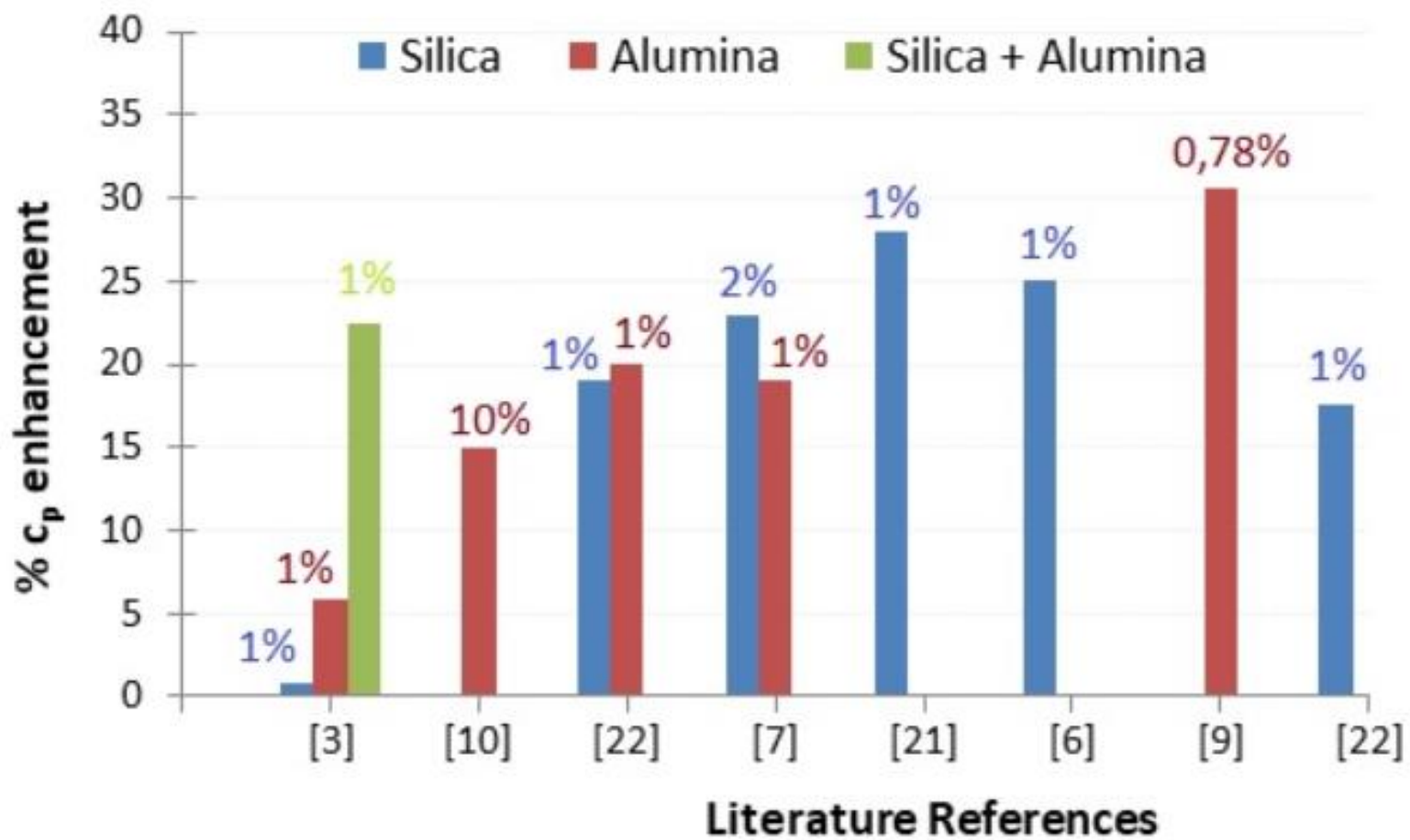
Molten Salts

- Molten Salts: several mixtures being studied
- Aim: Reduce fusion point
- Good thermal stability for operative range

Mix	Ca(NO ₃) ₂ [mol%]	Liquidus Temp.[°C] (10K/min)
#1	12	~ 105°C
#2	5	< 115°C
#3	10	< 115°C
#4	15	<i>inconclusive</i>



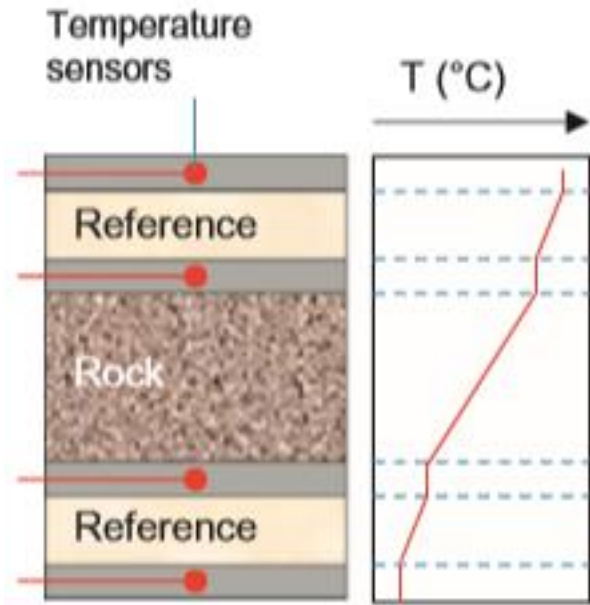
Molten Salts with nanoparticles (1-2%) incorporated, currently a R&D topic



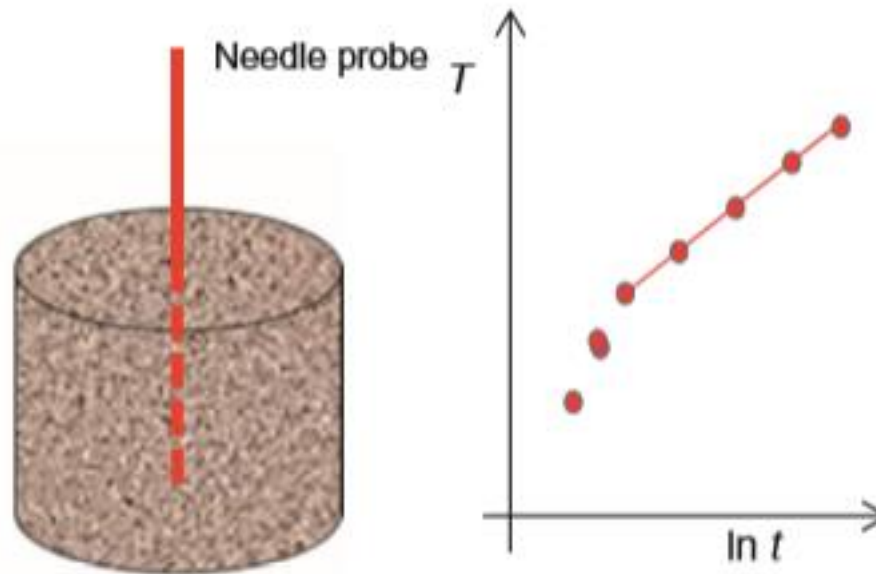
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Solid Materials challenge: measuring thermal properties at high temperature

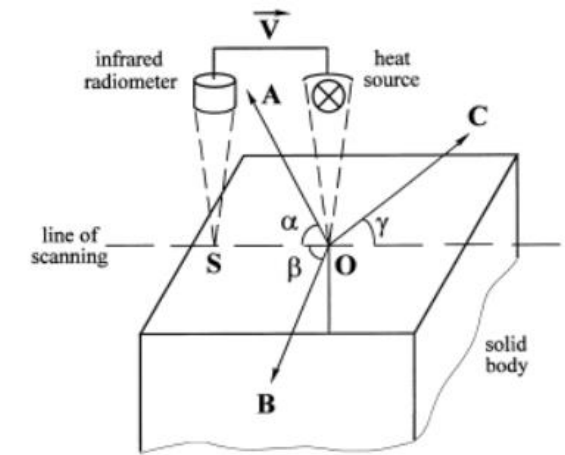
➤ Divided bar (steady state)
Temperature drop



➤ Needle (transient)
Temperature as function of time



➤ Optical scanning
(constant heat source)
Temperature rise

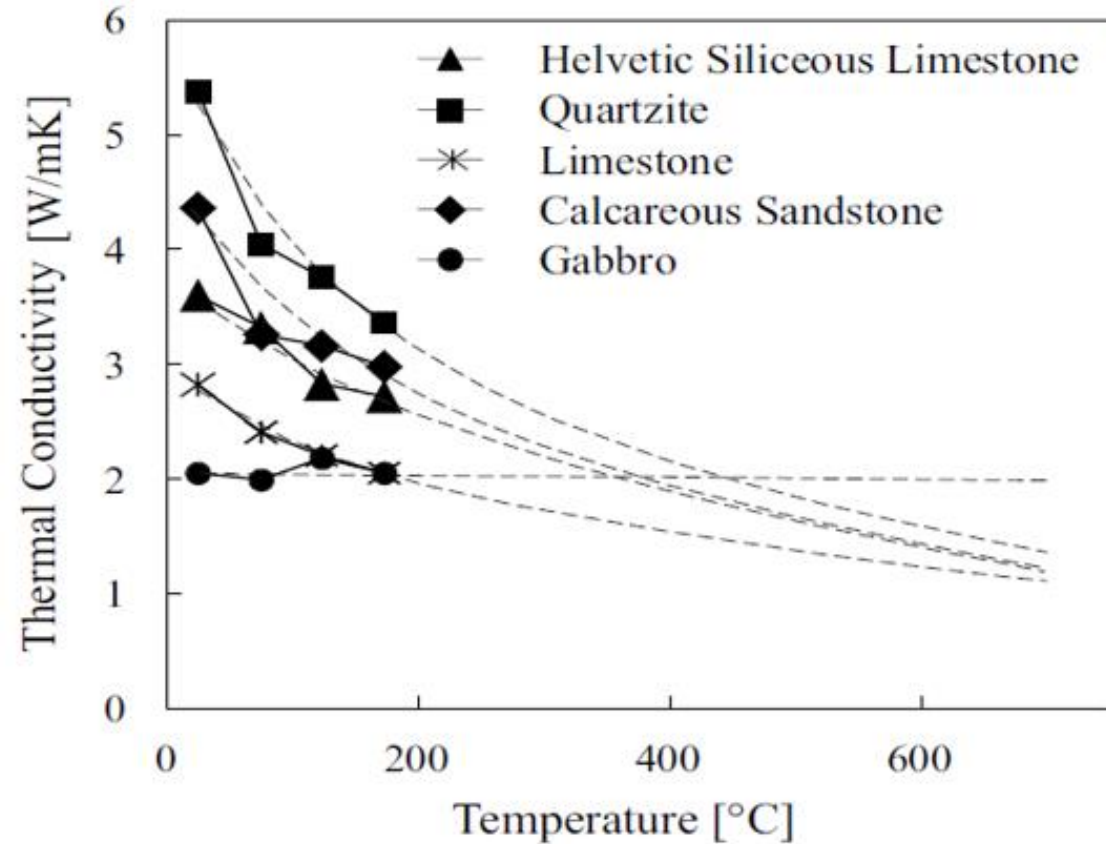
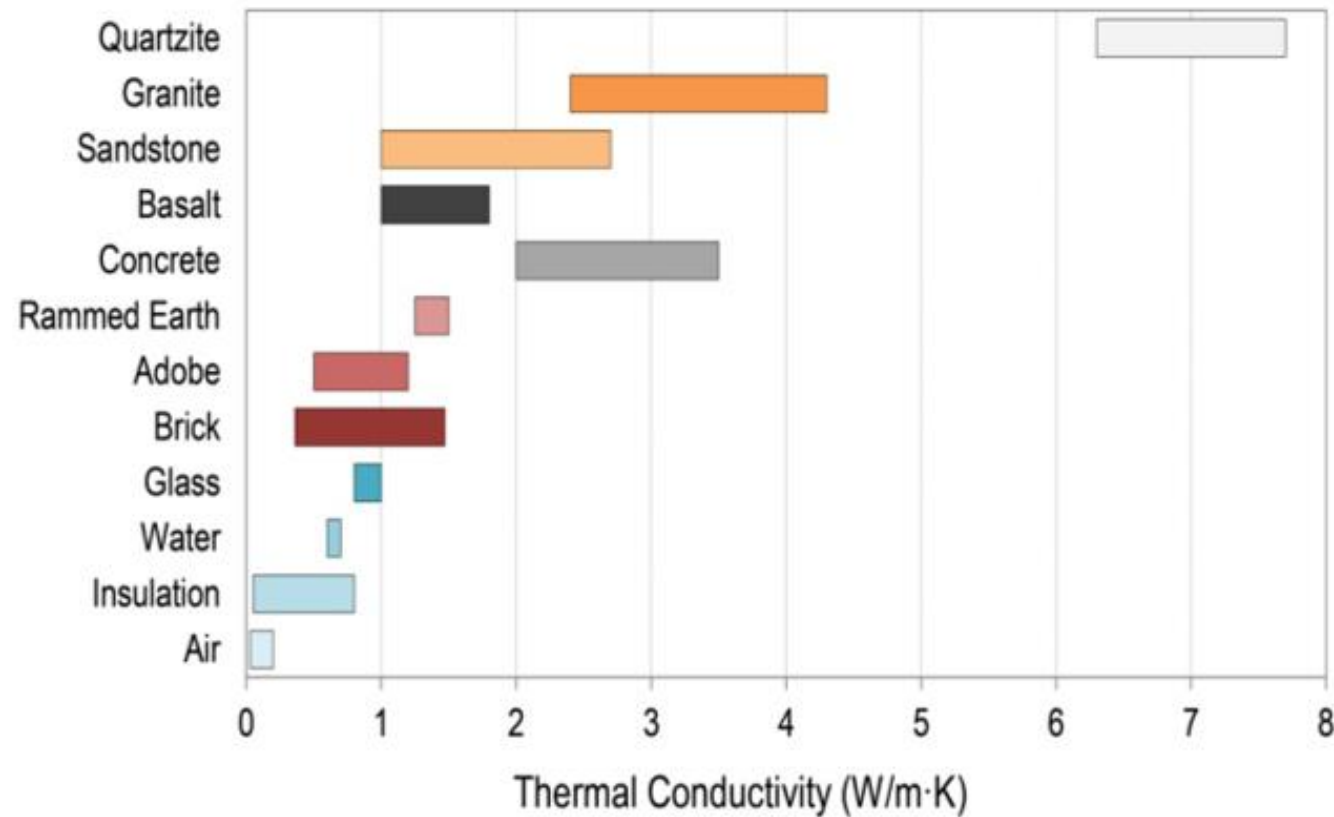


Source: Sauer, 2017



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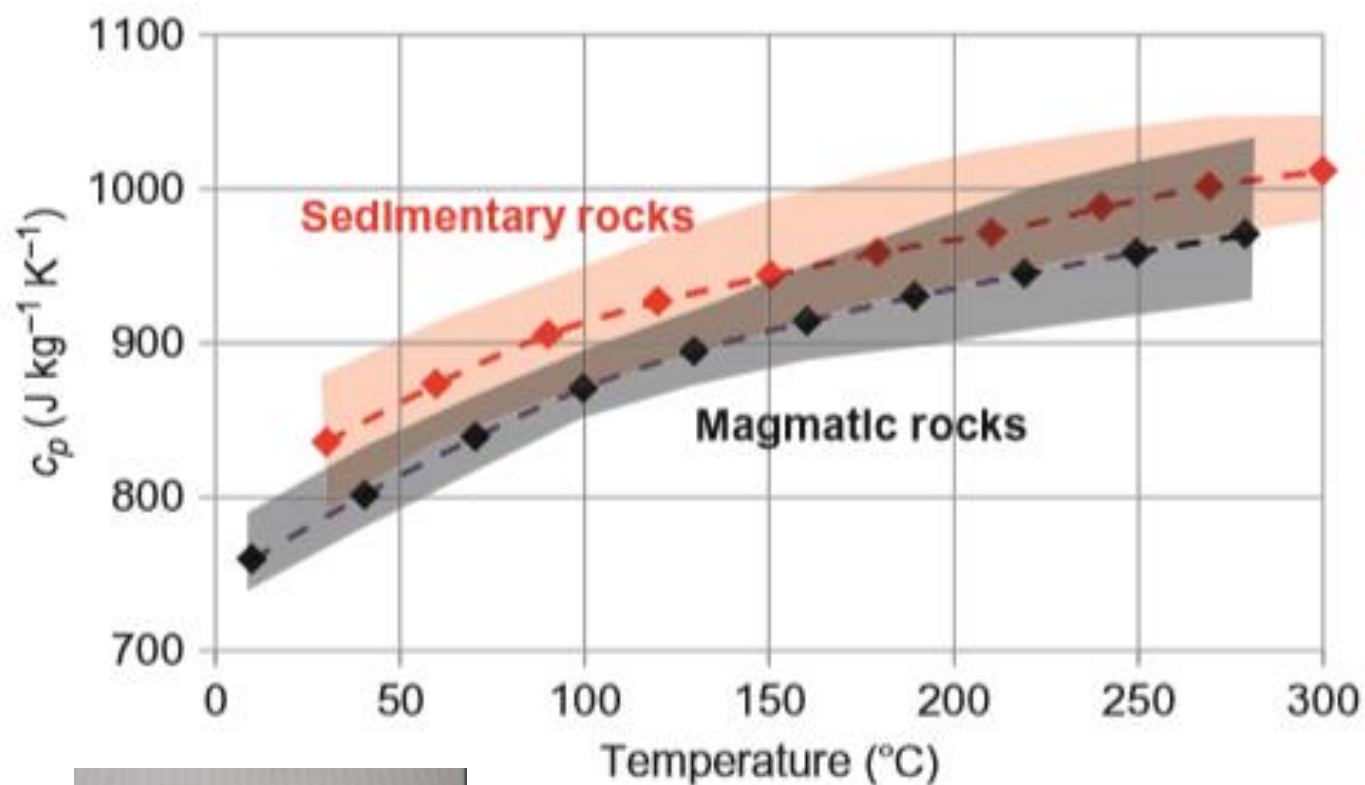
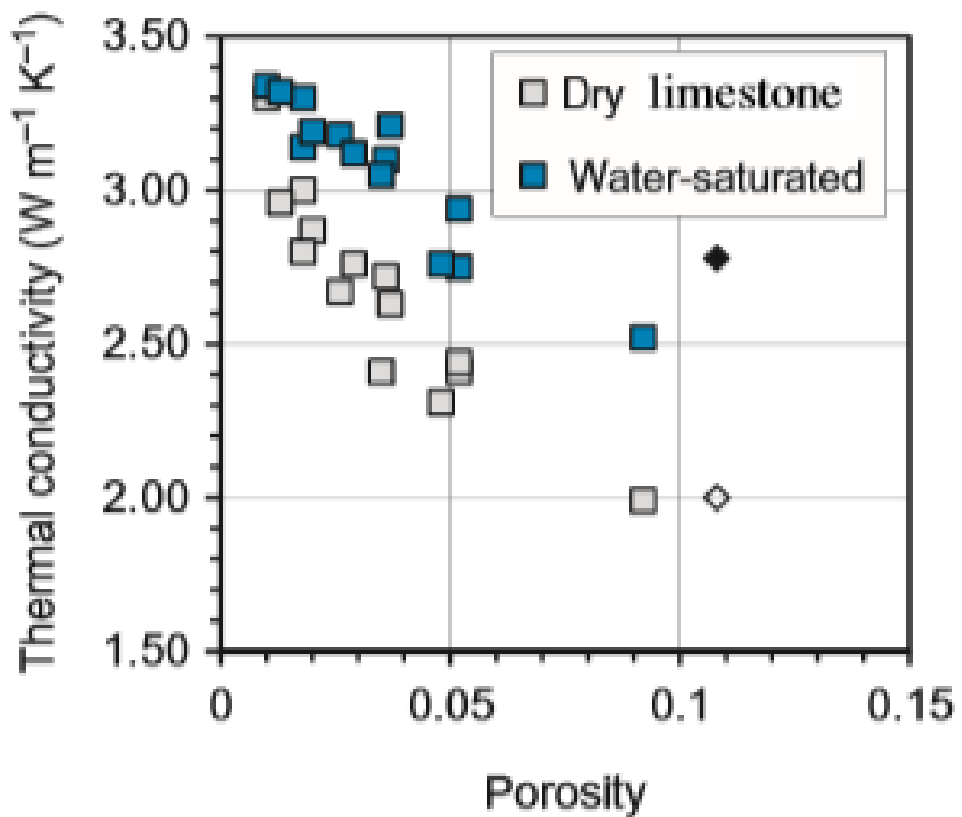
Solid Materials



Source: Horai 1979



Solid Materials



- Slag Material (São Domingos Mine)



Source: Schön 2014



Molten Salts in contact with Filler Material (validation ongoing)

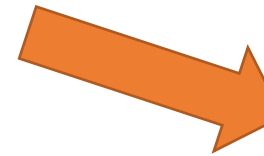
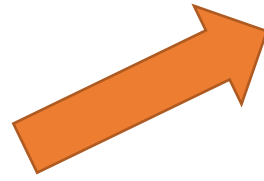
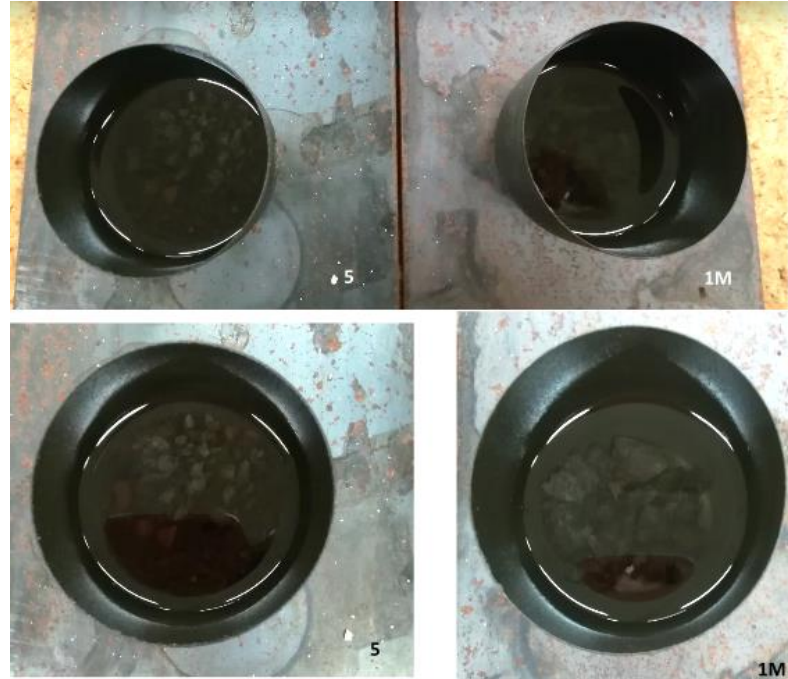


Sample	Size (mm)	Fayalite %	Maghemite & Magnetite %	Petedunnite %
NS-1	S (2.5 <Size1 <6.3)	79.03	5.98	14.99
	M (6.3 <Size2 <12.5)	72.25	6.24	21.51





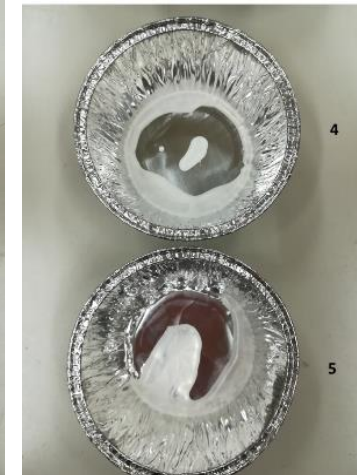
Interaction Solid / Molten Salts



Molten Salts post-contact Analysis



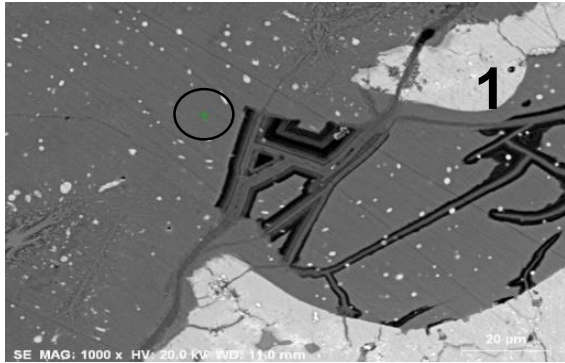
Solid Material post-contact Analysis



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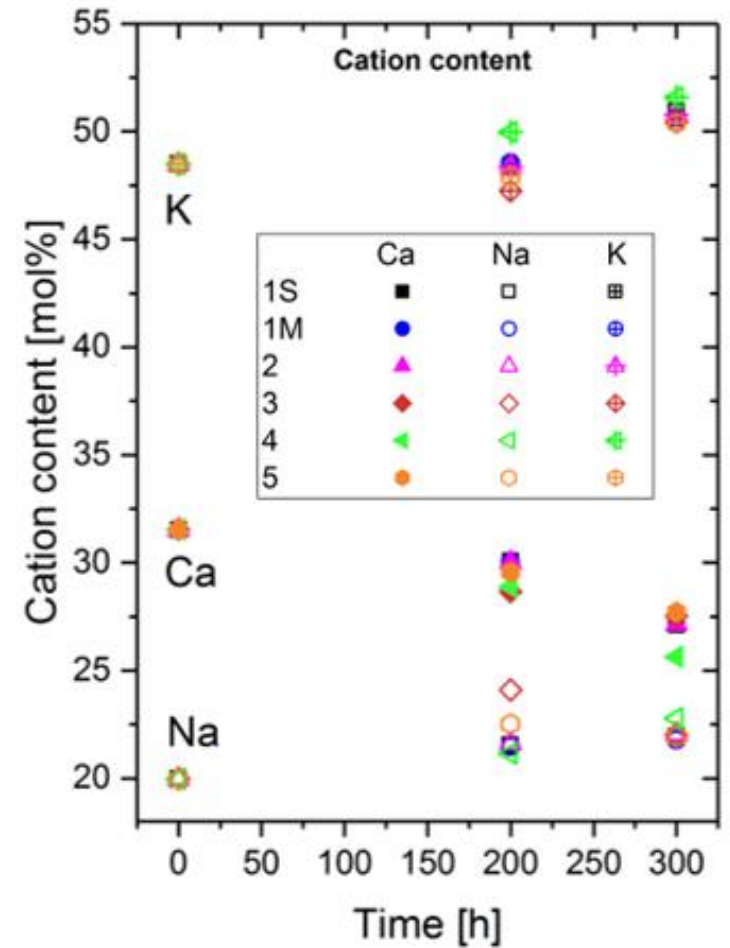


Solid material analysis



Molten Salts analysis

Chemical decomposition is checked for molten salt mixture validation



Solid Material + Ternary Molten Salt					
Sample	Size	Weight Crucible [g]	Total Weight [g]	Initial weight solid [g]	Final weight solid [g]
NS-1	S (2.5 <Size1 <6.3)	42.1	150.20	35.03	34.02
	M (6.3 <Size2 <12.5)	49.9	149.91	35.23	34.27





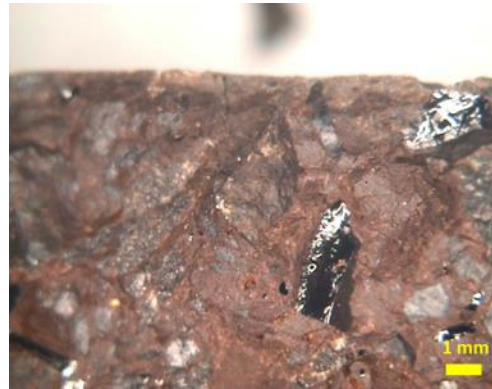
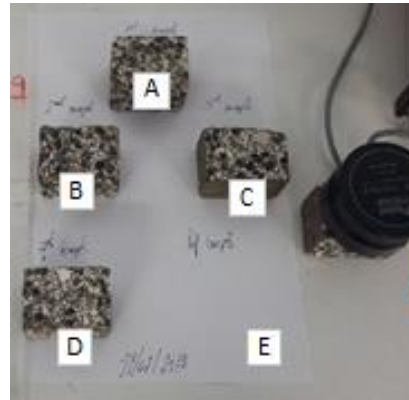
R&D Storage Materials: New Binder



- Improve Thermal properties
- Special cement as a binder
- Slag as aggregate



Coated and Uncoated samples – up to 1500 hours in contact with MS



➤ A new binder requires thermal optimization and durability validation under thermal cycles

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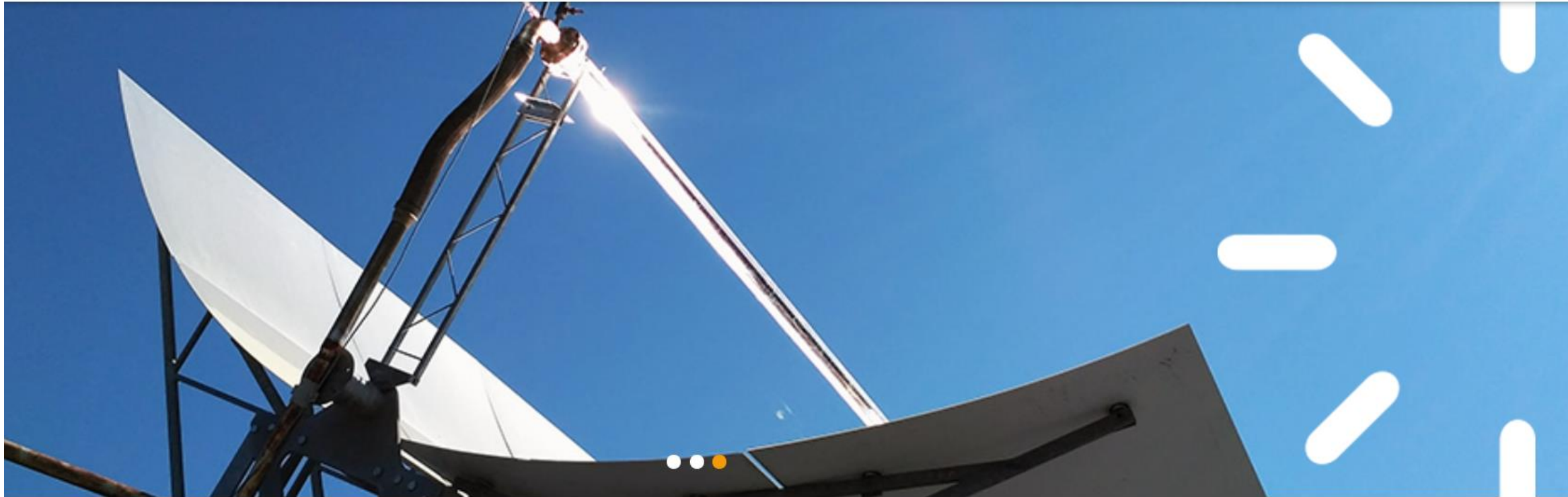
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Foam Concrete is being optimized in terms of its density and amount of additive

- High Temp. Concrete = 2000 kg /m³; 2,0 W/mK
- Foam Concrete = 250 – 400 kg /m³; 0,05 – 0,10 W/mK





NEWSOL project addresses the specific challenge towards high efficiency solar energy harvesting by advanced materials solutions and architectures that are in line with those specified in SET-plan.



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Future Perspectives



- 1st step (2018): Validating the Molten Salt mixtures at Lab scale
- 2nd step (2019): Validate at EMSP – Evora Molten Salt Platform (1,6 MWth)



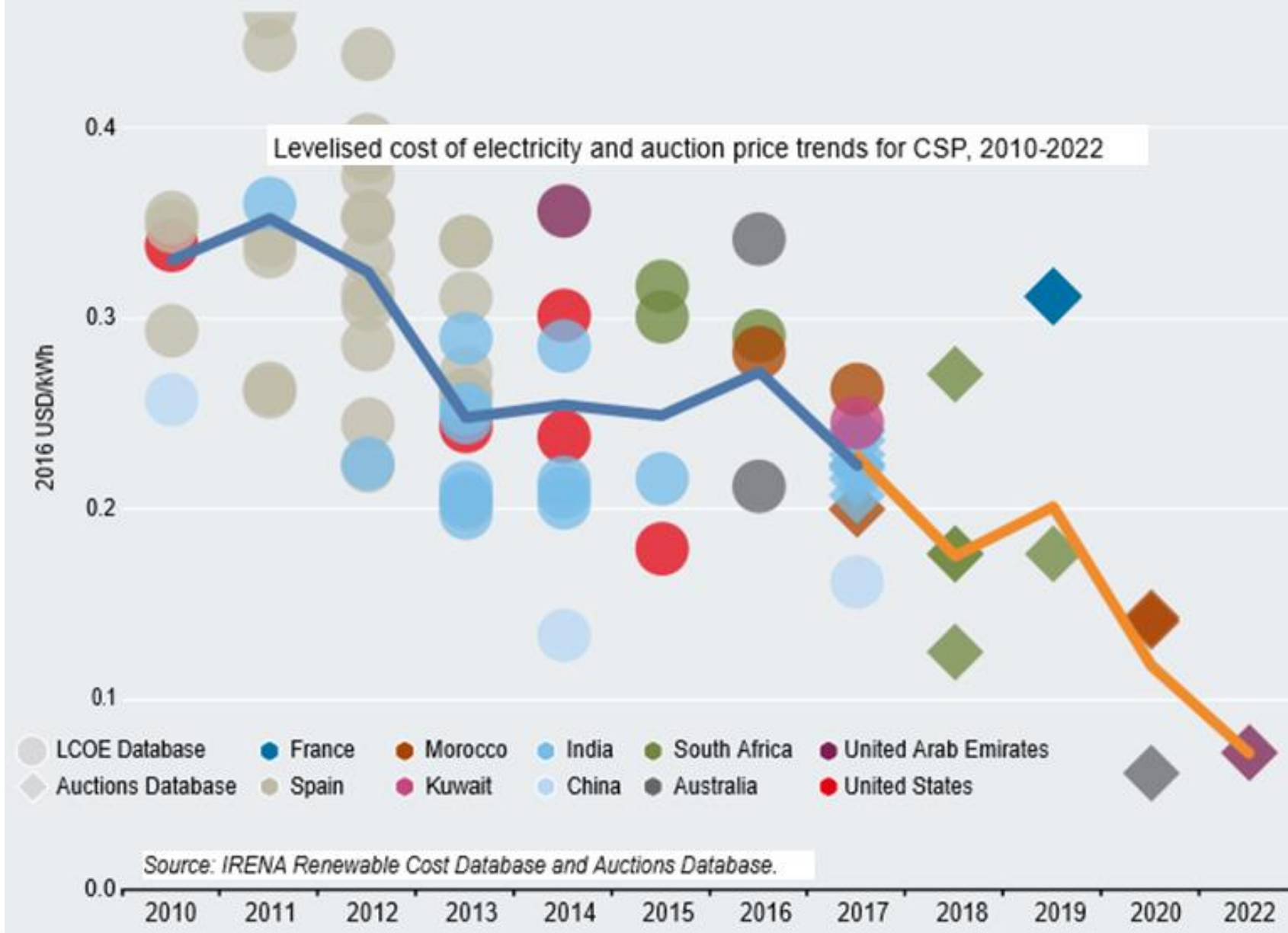
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Future Perspectives



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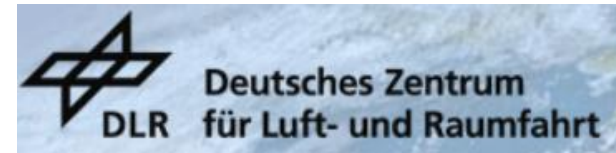
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Strategic Partnerships

- DLR – German Aerospace Center, Germany
R&D area: Solar Field Testing / Operation
- University of Stellenbosch, South Africa
R&D area: Rock bed concepts
- Universidad de Antofagasta, Chile
R&D area: Molten salt mixtures





Conclusion

- ✓ Energy Transition is a must, societies that achieve closed loop, long term sustainable solutions will be better of in the future
- ✓ Technology is just a part of the challenge. Societal changes are also very important
- ✓ Renewable Energy systems are local dependent, and have been gaining momentum via LCOE cost reduction of CSP Plants with Energy Storage
- ✓ Design concepts at R&D level can bring costs further down
- ✓ R&D on Storage Materials is a critical issue for success
- ✓ Let's have also a sunny future in Chile



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Thank you!
Muchas Gracias!



Luís Guerreiro, PhD, MBA, lguerreiro@uevora.pt